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BRAWNY DAN, THE GUIDE

by

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One spring day in the early 1800's, Dan, a rugged pioneer, sought refuge in the wilderness of northeastern Pennsylvania to escape imprisonment for nonpayment of an unjust debt at the hands of an extortionate neighbor. He began his retreat thoughtfully - hopefully, too. "This is a difficult decision" he mused. "Perhaps a solution can be found here. One can exist with rifle, ax and knapsack."

As the days passed, Dan, strong-minded, however wanted not just to escape but wanted the freedom that would lead to action - rewarding action. The thought of mere existence was insufficient. He needed work - needed to earn enough to pay for his freedom but, added to this, he wanted adventure for he had the zest for full-living. Should he stay in this deep forest or should he continue his wandering? This was the question of the moment.

Physically weary and mentally distraught, he found the deep forest, with its quiet, strangely pacifying. A naturalist by nature, listening intently, he found himself murmuring, "Just a bird call could bring me an element of hope". Thankfully he felt less and less the shadow of impending imprisonment, less and less hatred for the threatening pioneer neighbor whose action had set up this unfair situation.